

overseas but died intestate. Under current law, the department is authorized to take possession of and dispose of estates. After a certain period, if no claims have been made against the estate, the proceeds from the sale are transferred to the U.S. state in which the deceased citizen last lived. If the state is unknown, the proceeds are deposited into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts (revenues).

The bill would make three substantive changes that would increase miscellaneous receipts. First, if the country in which the citizen died is unable to issue a death certificate, the State Department would issue a report of death (or presumptive death), which would allow for the disposition of the estate. The \$10 fee charged for the report would be deposited in the Treasury. (The fee and other expenses associated with disposition of the estate are paid by the estate.) Second, instead of transferring the proceeds of the sale to the U.S. state, these proceeds would be deposited directly into the Treasury. Finally, the bill would allow the State Department to take title to any real property. The department would have the option to retain the property for its own use or sell it and deposit the proceeds in the Treasury. CBO estimates that these changes would raise miscellaneous receipts by less than \$500,000 in most years; however, sales of real property could net over \$500,000 in rare instances.

Thrift Savings Plan. CBO estimates that section 332, discussed above, would reduce income tax receipts by less than \$100,000 annually. Under current law, federal employees can count service with an international organization towards their retirement annuity, but they cannot participate in TSP during this period. Under S. 886, employees who are covered by the Foreign Service Pension System or the Federal Employees' Retirement System would be eligible to make retroactive contributions to TSP. Like all TSP contributions, these retroactive contributions would not be subject to income tax until distributed. According to information from the State Department, approximately 90 federal employees are serving with international organizations at any one time.

Reimbursement from the United Nations. Section 813 would require the President to seek reimbursement for goods and services provided to the United Nations for peacekeeping operations and other emergencies. The President has authority to provide goods and services on a reimbursable basis and to credit reimbursements to current appropriations if the funds are received within 180 days after the close of the fiscal year in which the services were provided. This section would credit the funds to current appropriations regardless of when the reimbursement is received or allow them to be used to offset peacekeeping assessments if the funds cannot be applied to any appropriation. The section could reduce offsetting receipts, though CBO estimates that the loss of receipts would not be significant.

During the mid-1990s, DoD provided \$175 million in goods and services on a reimbursable basis to support U.N. peacekeeping activities. Most of the reimbursements were deposited into the Treasury. In recent years, however, the DoD has provided less than \$1 million a year in goods and services to the United Nations. CBO expects this more recent pattern to continue for the next five years.

Lockerbie Trial. Section 727 would authorize the President to seize and liquidate blocked Libyan assets to pay the reasonable costs of travel for certain individuals to attend the

trial of those suspected of bombing Pan American flight 103. The bill would authorize payment of travel expenses to the Netherlands for the immediate family members of U.S. victims, and the authorized amount would be whatever is necessary to cover those expenses. According to information from the Office of Foreign Assets Control, there are currently \$400 million in blocked Libyan assets and roughly \$600 million in claims against them.

Although CBO does not expect that this provision would have a significant net budgetary impact over the next five years, liquidating Libyan assets could create a claim against the U.S. government. Should the United States and Libyan governments return to normal relations, the United States might be required to repay the funds or reduce the amount of compensation to other claimants. CBO estimates that transportation and per diem for two weeks would cost \$3,000 per person. Depending on the number of family members that choose to attend the trial and on the length of their stay, costs could approach \$500,000.

Reimbursements From a State. Section 824 would authorize the commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission to accept and spend funds from state and local governments. Upon request, those contributions would be used to provide technical tests, surveys, or similar services. CBO estimates that collections and spending would not be significant in any year.

Pay-as-you-go Considerations: The bill contains several provisions that affect direct spending and revenues; however, the net impact is estimated to be less than \$500,000 a year.

Intergovernmental and Private-Sector Impact: Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) excludes from the application of that act any provisions that are necessary for the national security or the ratification or implementation of international treaty obligations. CBO has determined that the provisions in title VI of S. 886 either fall within that exclusion or contain no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates. All other titles of the bill contain no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates and would have no significant effects on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimate Prepared by: Federal Costs: Sunita D'Monte and Joseph C. Whitehill (226-2840) for the Department of State; Gary Brown (226-2860) for the International Boundary and Water Commission; Eric Rollins (226-2820) for retirement benefits; and Jennifer Winkler (226-2880) for employee compensation.

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Leo Lex (225-3220).

Impact on the Private Sector: Keith Matrick (226-2940).

Estimate Approved by: Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I have ascertained that none of the Senators on the other side will be available this afternoon to offer their amendments or to discuss them. Since there is no Member here, or no amendment pending by anybody on this side, I think it would be an exercise in futility to continue to suggest quorum calls.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, June 17, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,585,233,665,272.21 (Five trillion, five hundred eighty-five billion, two hundred thirty-three million, six hundred sixty-five thousand, two hundred seventy-two dollars and twenty-one cents).

One year ago, June 17, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,491,718,000,000 (Five trillion, four hundred ninety-one billion, seven hundred eighteen million dollars).

Five years ago, June 17, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,491,908,000,000 (Four trillion, four hundred ninety-one billion, nine hundred eight million dollars) which reflects a debt increase of 1,093,325,665,272.21 (One trillion, ninety-three billion, three hundred twenty-five million, six hundred sixty-five thousand, two hundred seventy dollars and twenty-one cents) during the past 5 years.

RECYCLING PROVISION OF SUPERFUND

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, 1 year ago the distinguished minority leader, Mr. DASCHLE, and I introduced S. 2180, the Superfund Recycling Equity Act, to overcome the unintended consequences of Superfund which continue to have major negative impacts on recycling. There is widespread recognition of the need for relief in this area, as evidenced by the number of Superfund bills that have been introduced since the 103d Congress, as well as the measures being considered in this Congress, all of which include nearly identical recycling relief provisions.

I am grateful for the decision by Senators CHAFFEE and SMITH to include a strong recycling provision in their Superfund reform bill currently pending before the Environment and Public Works Committee. This inclusion was an important contributing reason to my decision to be an original cosponsor of the Superfund Program Completion Act of 1999 (S. 1090). As the committee approaches a markup of its legislation, I understand that the committee chairman and subcommittee chairman are negotiating with their minority counterparts and the Environmental Protection Agency in an effort to reach a bipartisan consensus. In the spirit of the last year's Superfund Recycling Equity Act, which collected 63 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, I endorse such an approach and look forward to debating the bill on the Senate floor.